

F M C S A

*Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration*

# ISS-2

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## **ISS-2**      **The Inspection Selection System**

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*January, 2000*

ISS is a decision-aid which provides an easy means of selecting vehicles for roadside inspection based on SafeStat and the carrier's history of past inspections.

**HISTORY** – ISS has been very successful since introduced in 1995. The concept was originally mandated by Congress as a means of using prior safety data to guide carrier selection for inspections and prevent: “over and under sampling” of motor carriers. The original ISS algorithm was developed by North Dakota State University, The OMC Field Systems Group, and a Technical Working Group of State officials. It proved to be a good predictor of carrier safety status and met the expectations of roadside State inspectors. This latest version of ISS, is based on SafeStat, the National carrier ranking system, and hence unifies all carrier ranking under a single process. ISS-2 also adds various requested features to improve the usefulness at the roadside.

### ***New Features in ISS-2:***

- Calculation of inspection value (IV) based on SafeStat score.
- Carriers without SafeStat scores also receive IV.
- Intrastate carriers can also receive IV.
- Incremental carrier name search based on legal name.
- Displays carrier dba (doing business as) name (if in MCMIS).
- Displays carrier terminal addresses (if they are in MCMIS)
- Displays SAFESTAT SEA indicator values.
- Displays PRISM status if carrier is sanctioned.
- Insurance status is displayed for common & contract carriers.
- Mexican Carrier Commercial Zone authority is displayed.
- Can do name lookup on intrastate carriers if State maintains data.
- Has new Windows 2000 look & feel.
- All existing features of ISS are supported.

**A LOOK AT THE NEW ISS SCREENS** – The new ISS-2 screens, are similar to the old ISS in that they use the tabbed notebook concept. However, all critical decisions can be made from information displayed on the top “MAIN” page so the user doesn’t really have to navigate the other pages.



**Figure 1, Main Screen**

To find a carrier, enter the DOT#, ICC#, or use the “Search by Carrier Name” button. Once a match is made, the inspection value is displayed with the recommendation to: INSPECT, OPTIONAL, or PASS. In addition, a flashing stop light icon is displayed with red/yellow/green lights. Also, the “expert” window provides textual comments based on analysis of the data. The bottom of the screen indicates the basis of the displayed Inspection Value. Sources include:

1. Inspection value is based on SAFESTAT data.
2. Inspection value is based on lack of safety performance data.
3. Inspection value is based on MCSIP (part of PRISM).



**HM ALERT** – Another new feature is the HM circle icon which displays when the carrier has previously been inspected while hauling hazardous materials. The Expert box also provides a text description of the percent of inspections which involved Hazardous Materials loads.

**Figure 2, HM carried icon.**

**DBA NAMES** – ISS2 will provide a list of “doing business as” or dba names which the carrier may be using. To see the dba names, press the DBA Names button on the main screen. If there are no dba names (applies to about 65% of the carriers), this button will be greyed out. Note that dba names are not used in ASPEN nor SAFETYNET to identify the carrier. These systems use the company’s legal name for identification. ISS, when used with ASPEN, will transfer the carrier’s legal name into ASPEN data fields.

**SEARCHING BY CARRIER NAME** – Long requested, this feature is incorporated into ISS-2 as a means of locating a carrier when the DOT or ICC number is unknown. The search is “incremental” meaning that as you type the word, the system will jump to that point in the data table. Incremental searching lets you easily search the carrier list. However, name searching has the potential for assigning the wrong carrier. Consider:

**ISS Search by Carrier Name**

Search Information:

Search For:

Search Type:

☒ Incremental

☐ Starts With

☐ Contains

Search Results:

Carrier Name	DOT #
SMITH TRANSFER INC	722196
SMITH TRANSIT INC	260382
▶ SMITH TRANSPORT COMPANY	243630
SMITH TRANSPORT INC	246204
SMITH TRANSPORT INC	290975
SMITH TRANSPORT INTERNATIONAL INC	515874

**Figure 3, Name Search**

In this case, it is not clear which Smith Transport is the real carrier. Using the highlighter to select an entry and pressing the Carrier Business Address button, you can see the principal address for the various companies. Note that searches can be made with:

- Incremental – Each letter typed refines the match FAST
- Starts with – when you know how the name starts SLOW
- Contains – when the name is unclear, but contains a word VERY SLOW

As a check against ambiguous searches, the system will display a warning dialog box if there are hundreds of matches. The box asks if you want to display all or reenter your search words. It is important to remember that you are searching a database of about 500,000 carriers. Use the best name possible when starting the search.

**INTRASTATE CARRIERS** – Within ISS-2 there is a complete data access system to allow access to State maintained intrastate carrier data in a similar fashion as is done for interstate carriers. Most features of ISS are available for intrastate carriers providing the State Agency maintains the underlying databases.

The screenshot displays the 'ISS Inspection Selection System 2.0' window. It features a menu bar with 'File', 'Actions', and 'Help'. Below the menu is a toolbar with icons for file operations and help. The main interface has three tabs: 'Main', 'Terminals', and 'History'. The 'Main' tab is active, showing a 'State Carrier Search' section with a 'State Number' field containing '00000011', a 'Search by Carrier Name' button, and a 'DOT #' field containing '456789'. Below this is a 'State Carrier Information' section displaying 'TEST STATE CARRIER', '123 MAIN', 'ANYWHERE', 'CO', and '80097'. A 'DBA Names' button is also present. The 'State Inspection Value' section shows a large blue number '60'. On the right side, there are vertical labels 'Federal' and 'State'. At the bottom, a status bar indicates 'Inspection Value is based on SAFESTAT data.' and the time '2:10 PM'.

**Figure 4, Intrastate carrier Access**

**DETAILS** – The details screen contains certain basic carrier statistics including:

- SafeStat SEA indicator scores
- SafeStat category codes & updates
- Carrier fleet size data
- Out of service rates
- Number of past Inspections
- Last Safety Fitness Rating

In addition this screen contains buttons which allow access to carrier insurance status data, and terminal addresses. If no such data exists for that carrier the buttons will be grayed out.

The screenshot shows the 'Details' tab of the ISS Inspection Selection System 2.0. The carrier is 'ANYTIME TRANSPORT INC'. The interface is divided into several sections: Carrier Identification, Safestat Indicators, Carrier Statistics, Insurance Information, and Terminal Information. The carrier is categorized as 'Federal' and 'State'. The status bar at the bottom indicates the inspection value is based on SAFESTAT data and the time is 3:48 PM.

Carrier Identification:	
DOT Number:	145230
ICC Number:	

Safestat Indicators:	
Crash SEA:	18.00
Driver SEA:	39.00
Vehicle SEA:	90.00
Mgmt SEA:	

Carrier Statistics:	
Vehicle Out-Of-Service Rate:	43.19 %
Driver Out-Of Service Rate:	4.86 %
Inspections Per Power Unit:	0.99
Inspections Per Driver:	1.30
Number of Power Units:	216
Number of Drivers:	190
Total Number of Inspections:	552
Inspections Involving HM:	304
Safety Rating as of: 1997	U

Carrier SAFESTAT Category: F  
Last Updated: 09/25/1999

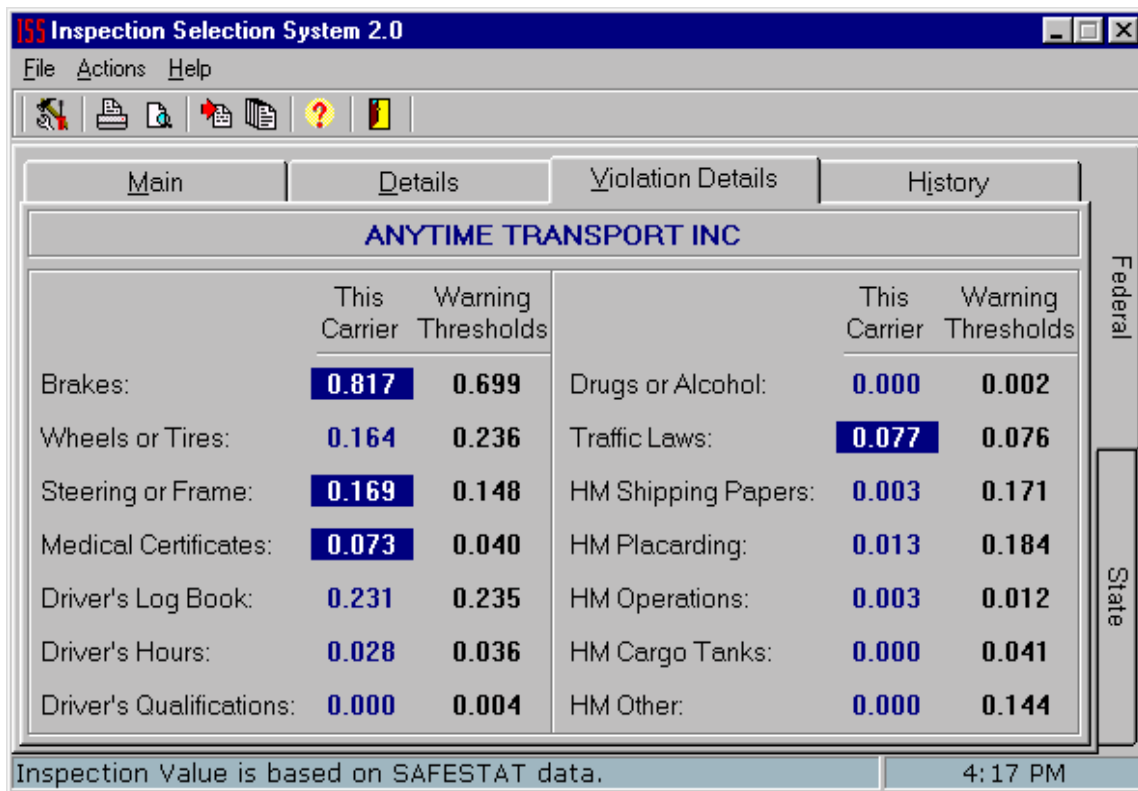
Insurance Information: [Grayed Out]  
Terminal Information: [Grayed Out]

Inspection Value is based on SAFESTAT data. 3:48 PM

Figure 5, Details Screen

**INSURANCE INFORMATION IN ISS-2** – Insurance status information on common and contract carriers is on a pop-up screen. Insurance details are limited to information critical to roadside inspections. Much more detailed insurance information is available on the SAFER web site at [www.safer.org](http://www.safer.org). Note also that carriers requiring insurance must carry documents showing proof of insurance on all vehicles.

The insurance status information comes from OMC's Insurance & Licensing System (<http://fhwa-li.volpe.dot.gov>) for intranet users. Data in that system is updated daily from carriers and insurance companies. SAFER is refreshed weekly and this data is included in the weekly ISS snapshot refresh.



**Figure 6, Violations Details Screen**

**VIOLATION DETAILS** – This tab section compares the status of violation categories for the selected carrier against the National average for similar carriers. Categories in which the selected carrier exceeds the National mean are highlighted. The idea is to point out areas where the carrier has a history of violations beyond the normal.

**HISTORY LOG** – The History log, (no screen shot included) contains a simple grid showing all carrier lookups done by ISS. Included is the carrier name, IV, data & time of the lookup, and DOT/ICC #. There is also space for the user to enter comments on any of the lookups. The comments are kept local to the system. The history log and comment section are most useful to port of entry screening applications.

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File: ISS2.wpd, Update: 01/20/2000